were small channels for taking the water stored in the tank to the paddy fields and there were also culverts at intervals. All those channels became useless several years ago and the people were not able to restore them to their former condition.

Besides the above, the wet lands lying near the Attungal and Chittar rivers suffered much during the freshes in those rivers. There were formerly strong river bunds and also culverts where the canals from the paddy fields joined the river. They were non-existent at present.

The circumstances mentioned above contributed to the failure of crops and the consequent poverty of the people. The Member, therefore, suggested that a competent officer might be deputed from the P. W. Department to examine the condition of the tanks, bunds, culverts, etc., which required improvement and submit the necessary estimate with a view to those works being taken in hand and completed with the least possible delay. He added that the ryots were prepared to pay a portion of the expenditure along with the tax in instalments in accordance with the provisions of the Irrigation Regulation.

The Member next complained that the officers of the Agricultural Department did not sufficiently tour in the interior parts of the taluk and that the people did not get much help from the department. He, therefore, suggested—

(1) that the officers of the Agricultural Department be directed to go about the interior parts of the taluk more frequently and advise the ryots to follow improved methods of agriculture;

(2) that a manure depot be opened in the taluk ; and

(3) that the Agricultural Department might take up plots of land at specified places on lease and cultivate them on scientific lines and thus demonstrate to the people in a practical manner the advantages of improved methods of cultivation.

*Dewan's reply.*—Noted.

**54. Need for remedying the difficulties incidental to cultivation in the Shencottah taluk.**

*Mr. S. Kasi Iyer* (Member, T. I. C., Shencottah) said that the people of the taluk were mostly agriculturists who depended on their cattle for cultivation. There was no extensive grazing ground, all the lands for a few miles around being registered lands. The Member suggested that some lands on the sides of the hills close by, whether within or without the reserves, be set apart for grazing purposes.

The Member next referred to the difficulty of the ryots in the matter of water supply for agricultural purposes. He said that the jungles on the sides of hill streams had been registered against the orders of Government on the subject and that the registry-holders made clearings with the result that those streams dried up just at the time when water was necessary for agriculture. He also observed that the conservation of those places had been recommended by Mr. Venugopala Aiyar, the Deputy Conservator of Forests. He, therefore, requested that the aforesaid places be conserved in the interests of the agricultural population of the taluk.

*Dewan's reply.*—Noted.

**55. Agriculturaldifficulties in the Mavelikara taluk.**

*Mr. N. G. Parameswaran Pillai* (Member, Mavelikara taluk) said that the bulk of the people of the taluk depended on the cultivation of paddy, that the wet lands in the taluk were divided into *virippu*, *punja* and *mundakan* and that most of the *punja* and *mundakan* lands were in the *pakuthis* of Chennithala and Mavelikara and the *virippu* lands in the Thekkekkara and Pallikkal *pakuthis*. The only river in the taluk which helped the agriculturists was the Kollakadavu river. The canals cut from the river in olden times to help cultivation had gradually silted up, rendering cultivation difficult. When the canals were in good condition, the yield from the adjoining wet lands was satisfactory and the assessment fixed on

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